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Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

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DEMOCRACY

None

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

AID AND GROWTH: WHAT DOES THE CROSS-COUNTRY EVIDENCE REALLY SHOW?

[International Monetary Fund Working Paper - WP/05/127]

Raghuram Rajan and Arvind Subramanian

June 1, 2005

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2005/wp05127.pdf>

The authors examine the effects of aid on growth, after correcting for the bias that aid typically goes to poorer countries, or to countries after poor performance. Even after this correction, they find little robust evidence of a positive (or negative) relationship between aid inflows into a country and its economic growth. They also find no evidence that aid works better in better policy or geographical environments, or that certain forms of aid work better than others.

ENERGY--FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Energy Information Administration

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/finance/fdi/index.html>

This report provides an assessment of foreign ownership of energy assets in the United States. Section 657, Subpart 8 of the U.S. Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law 95-91) requires an annual report to Congress which presents: 'a summary of activities in the United States by companies which are foreign owned or controlled and which own or control United States energy sources and supplies.

FISCAL POLICY

The Brookings Institution

<http://www.brookings.edu/comm/policybriefs/pb141.htm>

The enormous accumulation of debt has been an inevitable by-product of the tax and spending policies promoted by the Bush administration and approved by Congress. The absence of fiscal rules promotes this behavior. This policy brief argues that fiscal rules are an essential instrument for governments determined to stay on a prudent, sustainable fiscal course, and the federal government should reimpose them in order to correct the imbalances that threaten the economic health of the United States. The United States can learn from the experiences of other countries, including New Zealand, that have successfully implemented fiscal rules by assuring that fiscal restraint.

FREE TRADE--POLITICS

Public Citizen

<http://www.citizen.org/documents/tradewars.pdf>

As the Bush Administration steps up efforts to obtain congressional approval for a the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) NAFTA expansion, Public Citizen released a new report documenting the fate of promises made to members of Congress since 1992 in exchange for their support of controversial trade agreements in a press conference call with former chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Rep. Esteban Torres (D-CA). Torres supported NAFTA in exchange for unfulfilled, high-profile promises to establish and adequately fund U.S.-Mexico border environmental and development institutions. The report, 'Trade Wars - Revenge of the Myth: Deals for Trade Votes Gone Bad' reveals that of the more than 90 promises made to win trade votes since NAFTA, just 16 were kept.

MANUFACTURING--GLOBAL INVESTMENT

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

<http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/research/0,1015,cid%3D83694%26pre%3DY%26lid%3D1,00.html>

Foreign direct investment (FDI) by U.S. manufacturing multinationals increased a staggering 90% from about US\$28 billion in 2003 to over US\$54 billion in 2004 according to a new study by Deloitte Research. The surge in FDI flows may be explained in part by a rise in outward U.S. manufacturing cross-border M&A activity, which has continued to climb since 2002, first surging 80%, from US\$16 billion in 2002 to US\$29 billion in 2003, and then increasing to nearly US\$31 billion in 2004 – its fourth-highest level over the last decade and a half. FDI growth may have also been fueled by improved corporate profitability and enhanced confidence by manufacturers in global markets. *Free registration required to access report.*

PRIVACY-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

AEI-Brookings Joint Center

<http://www.aei-brookings.org/publications/abstract.php?pid=942>

In this chapter, we review economic analyses of privacy. We begin by scrutinizing the “free market” argument against privacy regulation, and highlight why it may not work well for personal information because welfare may be non-monotone in the quantity of information, there may be excessive incentives to collect information that has no social value, and cross-market externalities may arise from the exploitation of information. We then discuss research on property rights and suggest some challenges in determining their optimal allocation. We conclude by summarizing the insights provided by recent empirical research and highlighting directions for future research in the economics of privacy.

TECHNOLOGY SPENDING--BUSINESSES--UNITED STATES

U.S. Census Bureau

[Information and Communication Technology: 2003](http://www.census.gov/ict/2003/)

The U.S. Census Bureau today released first-ever estimates of U.S. business spending on information and communication technology (ICT) equipment. The report, Information and Communication Technology: 2003, includes spending figures on the following types of items:

- * Computers and any hardware devices connected to them (such as printers, keyboards, mice and monitors);
- * Telephones and related equipment (such as noncellular, cordless telephones, fax machines, modems and answering machines);
- * Electronic devices used for medical and therapeutic purposes (e.g., defibrillator, dialysis equipment, hearing aids and pacemakers); and Computer software.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION: GLOBAL TRADE TALKS BACK ON TRACK, BUT CONSIDERABLE WORK NEEDED TO FULFILL AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVES. [GAO-05-538]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). May 31, 2005; Web-posted June 1, 2005

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05538.pdf>

The Committee on Ways and Means of the U.S. House of Representatives asked GAO to provide a status report on the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. In this report, the latest in a series, GAO assesses (1) the overall status of the WTO Doha Round negotiations; (2) developments on key negotiating issues since the previous (January 2004) GAO report; and (3) factors affecting progress in the negotiations. To address those objectives, GAO met with and obtained documents from a wide variety of WTO, U.S. and foreign government officials, as well as academic experts and private sector groups (including business associations, law firms, and civil society groups), both in Washington, D.C. and Geneva, Switzerland. GAO also reviewed international tariff and trade data from the WTO and the United Nations.

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY COLLEGES--STUDENTS

MRDC

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/409/overview.html>

Accessible and affordable, community colleges are gateways to postsecondary education, offering students new ways to achieve personal and economic goals. However, many students who begin courses at community colleges end them prematurely. In an effort to confront this problem, the Opening Doors Demonstration is testing the effects of community college programs that are designed to increase student persistence and achievement. The programs include various combinations of curricular reform, enhanced student services, and increased financial aid. This report describes the background, objectives, and design of MDRC's evaluation of Opening Doors. Six community colleges are participating in the project: Kingsborough Community College (New York), Lorain County Community College and Owens Community College (Ohio), Delgado Community College and Louisiana Technical College-West Jefferson (Louisiana), and Chaffey College (California).

EDUCATION--AFRICAN-AMERICANS

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF)

http://www.naacpldf.org/content/pdf/gap/Closing_the_Gap_-_Moving_from_Rhetoric_to_Reality.pdf

This Report is about more than one gap. There is the gap between the rhetoric of anti-affirmative action groups on the one hand and the law as stated by the Supreme Court on the other. There is the gap between the federal government's professed concern for closing the racial achievement gap on the one hand and its decision to limit the options of institutions trying to do so on the other. Until we close these two gaps, this nation will have a difficult time successfully tackling the more difficult and complex problem of closing the gap between the lived realities of blacks and whites.

EDUCATION POLICY

The Cato Institute

http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=3769

Instead of using centralized decrees to turn mediocre institutions into excellent ones, as they have been trying but failing to do for the last several decades, the state and federal governments should be empowering individual families to 'vote with their feet' by transferring to the schools of their own choice. The key locus for such revolutionary reforms is the states. The best contribution the national government can make to educational improvement is to avoid educational policymaking and allow states to experiment with school choice programs.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT

Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Faculty Research Working Paper Series

<http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP05-040?OpenDocument>

In this paper, we compare subjective principal assessments of teachers to the traditional determinants of teacher compensation - education and experience - and another potential compensation mechanism -- value-added measures of teacher effectiveness based on student achievement gains. We find that subjective principal assessments of teachers predict future student achievement significantly better than teacher experience, education or actual compensation, though not as well as value-added teacher quality measures. In particular, principals appear quite good at identifying those teachers who produce the largest and smallest standardized achievement gains in their schools, but have far less ability to distinguish between teachers in the middle of this distribution and systematically discriminate against male and untenured faculty. Moreover, we find that a principal's overall rating of a teacher is a substantially better predictor of future parent requests for that teacher than either the teacher's experience, education and current compensation or the teacher's value-added achievement measure.

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE--ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/stpp/global_climate_econdvlp.html

The report is a pathbreaking examination of the integral relationship between climate change and development. There exists great tension between the need for economic growth in the developing world and the concern over increasing greenhouse gas emissions. This workshop examined ways of promoting economic and social development, and improving the health of populations and ecosystems while slowing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

GLOBAL ISSUES

ADOLESCENTS--ALCOHOL--SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

National Bureau of Economic Research

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/W11378>

The problems of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and the high rates of other sexually transmitted diseases among youth have lead to widespread concern with the sexual behaviors of teenagers. Alcohol use is one of the most commonly cited correlates of risky sexual behavior. The purpose of this research is to investigate the causal role of alcohol in determining sexual activity and risky sexual behavior among teenagers and young adults. This research also addresses the question of whether there are public policies that can reduce the risky sexual behavior that results in harmful consequences. Individual and aggregate level data are used to investigate these questions. Results show that alcohol use appears to have no causal influence in determining whether or not a teenager has sex. However, alcohol use may lower contraception use among sexually active teens.

CHILDREN--GLOBALIZATION--MENTAL HEALTH

British Medical Journal

[Effect of globalisation on children's mental health](#)

Children's behaviour is influenced by child rearing philosophies and cultural socialisation processes. Globalisation is imposing Western culture and views of mental health around the world with the assumption that they are superior to those in non-Western cultures. Although there are numerous examples of problematic child rearing beliefs in many non-Western cultures (such as female circumcision), many practices are effective and should be preserved. Indeed, child psychiatrists in the West could gain new knowledge from examining childcare practices across the world.

FOOD SAFETY

Center for Science in the Public Interest

<http://cspinet.org/new/pdf/global.pdf>

The Center for Science in the Public Interest has released a detailed survey of food-safety challenges around the world. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), contaminated food contributes to 1.5 billion annual cases of diarrhea in children, resulting in more than three million premature deaths."

IDENTIFY THEFT

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/idtheftstudysupp/index.html>

This publication supplements the FDIC's study [Putting an End to Account-Hijacking Identity Theft](#) published on December 14, 2004.... This Supplement discusses seven additional technologies that were not discussed in the Study. These technologies, as well as those considered in the Study, have the potential to substantially reduce the level of account hijacking (and other forms of identity theft) currently being experienced.

PAROLE OFFICERS--STRESS

National Institute of Justice

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/205620.htm>

Probation and parole officers experience a great deal of job-related stress. A recent study investigated the nature and scope of the problem at nine sites around the country. Researchers identified the major sources of stress (heavy caseloads, paperwork, deadlines) and what officers do to cope. This Research for Practice summarizes key findings and provides case studies of promising stress reduction programs.

WORLD POPULATION HITS 6.5BN

Agence France-Presse. June 24, 2005

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,15714594-1702,00.html>

Earth contains nearly 6.5 billion inhabitants, more than half of them living in just six countries, according to a report from the French Institute for Demographic Studies (IFED). Of every 100 people in the world, 61 live in Asia, 14 in Africa, 11 in Europe, nine in Latin America, five in North America and less than one in Oceania, according to the IFED, which hosts an international conference on world demography in the French city of Tours next month.

HIV/AIDS

PREVENTION INDICATORS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF. A REPORT OF THE CSIS TASK FORCE ON HIV/AIDS WORKING COMMITTEE ON PREVENTION

Jennifer Kates and Phillip Nieburg

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). May 2005

<http://www.csis.org/hiv aids/PreventionIndicators.pdf>

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), now in its second year of full funding, has an ambitious goal of preventing 7 million new HIV infections over a five-year period. The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC), within the Department of State, has identified a set of HIV prevention indicators intended to gauge progress in reaching this goal in PEPFAR focus countries. Care and treatment indicators have also been identified. Country teams in the 15 PEPFAR focus countries -- Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zambia -- are required to report data for these indicators in their annual reports. Preliminary FY 2004 indicator data for the 15 focus countries were presented in PEPFAR's first annual report to Congress (see: <http://www.state.gov/s/gac/rl/c14961.htm>).

STRENGTHENING HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN: LESSONS FOR U.S. POLICY FROM ZAMBIA AND KENYA

Janet Fleischman

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). May 2005

http://www.csis.org/hiv aids/0505_strengthening.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report, based on a field mission to Kenya and Zimbabwe in February 2005, examines the gender perspective of the HIV/AIDS epidemic -- that is, the disproportionate impact on females -- and proffers suggestions to refine the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Among the many recommendations Fleishman makes are the following:

- * "In preparing the [Country Operational Programs] COPs for 2006, [the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator] OGAC should issue guidance to the field ... that it expects to see programs targeting women and girls under each program element and that these should include explicit issues and responses to gender considerations."
- * "OGAC should issue guidance to the field regarding expectations for strengthening linkages and funding possibilities between PEPFAR and the broader set of U.S. programs working on women's social and economic empowerment."
- * "PEPFAR programs should include benchmarks and indicators to monitor the access of women and girls [to treatment, care, and prevention programs.]"

LAW ENFORCEMENT / SECURITY / ILLEGAL DRUGS

CRIMINAL MASS VICTIMIZATION--MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), and the Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

<http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/SMA-3959/default.asp>

This manual contains 'the basics' of what mental health providers, crime victim assistance professionals, and faith-based counselors need to know to provide appropriate mental health support following incidents involving criminal mass victimization. The manual is primarily for mental health professionals, yet all service providers will find much of the material to be useful.

GANG VIOLENCE

Bureau of Justice Statistics

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/vgm03.htm>

Provides estimates of the number and rate of violent crimes committed by offenders that victims perceived to be members of gangs based on the National Crime Victimization Survey data. This Crime Data Brief also presents information on demographic characteristics of the victims of violence by gang members such as race, age, and gender, and characteristics of the incident such as police notification and number of offenders. Trends in violence by gang members are also examined.

NARCOTICS

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/world_drug_report.html

The negative impacts of the illicit drug trade touch every society in the world. This year's World Drug Report estimates that 200 million people, or 5% of the global population age 15-64, have consumed illicit drugs at least once in the last 12 months. The drug trade is pernicious and large. UNODC estimates its retail value at US\$ 321bn. It impacts almost every level of human security from individual health, to safety and social welfare. Its consequences are especially devastating for countries with limited resources available to fight against it. The World Drug Report 2005 provides one of the most comprehensive overviews of illicit drug trends at the international level.

STATE DEPARTMENT: IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN U.S. PASSPORT FRAUD DETECTION EFFORTS.

[GAO-05-853T - U.S. Senate Testimony] United States

Government Accountability Office (GAO). June 29, 2005

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05853t.pdf>

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the GAO's Director of International Affairs and Trade summarized GAO's recent report on the State Department's efforts to strengthen U.S. passport fraud and detection (GAO-05-477, May 20, 2005). His testimony focused on two of the reports key issues: How passport fraud is committed; and What key challenges the State Department faces in its fraud detection. The Director also discussed the report's recommendations to the Secretary of State. According to the testimony, the State Department has generally concurred with the report's recommendations, and has indicated that it has taken steps to implement most of them.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT [2005]

United States Department of State, Under Secretary for Global Affairs. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Web-posted June 3, 2005

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/47255.pdf>

The Department of State is required by law to submit a report each year to the U.S. Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. This Report is the fifth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. This report is intended to raise global awareness and spur foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons -- a form of modern day slavery. According to the rating system of the report, a country that fails to take significant actions to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons receives a negative "Tier 3" assessment. Such a rating could trigger the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance from the United States to that country.

OTHER

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: HHS TAKING STEPS TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL STRATEGY. [GAO-05-628]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). May 27, 2005; Web-posted May 31, 2005

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05628.pdf>

Health Information Technology (IT) is used to support health care quality and efficiency by providing tools to improve patient care and to reduce administration overhead. Examples include the following:

- * Electronic health records (EHRs) provide patients and their caregivers the necessary information required for optimal care while reducing costs and administrative overhead, such as that associated with patient registration, admission, discharge, and billing.
- * Computer-assisted clinical decision support tools increase the ability of health care providers to take advantage of current medical knowledge from online medical references as they make treatment decisions.
- * Computerized provider order entry allows providers to electronically order tests, medicine, and procedures for patients, reducing errors associated with hand-written orders and prescriptions.

